

# Mineral Industry Surveys

---

**For information, contact:**

Patricia A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
989 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757  
E-mail: [pplunker@usgs.gov](mailto:pplunker@usgs.gov)

Benjamin S. Goff (Data)  
Telephone: (703) 648-7962  
Fax: (703) 648-7975  
E-mail: [bgoff@usgs.gov](mailto:bgoff@usgs.gov)

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 191,316 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,833 t, 1% higher than that of the previous month but 2% below the rate for February 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 92.125 cents per pound in February 2005 from 89.750 cents per pound in January, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) continued to increase during February. The buying price range began the month at 64–66 cents per pound. On February 17, the price range increased to 65–67 cents per pound, and on February

23, it increased again to 67–69 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

### Update

In March, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased significantly to 96.85 cents per pound, the highest monthly average in more than 10 years. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased several times during March. On March 1, the price range increased to 69–71 cents per pound, and on March 8, it increased to 70–72 cents per pound. On March 15, the buying price range increased to 72–74 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004 <sup>p</sup>	2,520	1,830	1,200	3,020	3,250	938	4,180	9,720	1,470
2004:									
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	151	99	250	297	80	377	837	1,490
August	210	158	107	265	225	87	312	787 <sup>r</sup>	1,470
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	159	106	265	286	84	370	847 <sup>r</sup>	1,390
November	207	150	103	253	272	84	356	816	1,410 <sup>r</sup>
December	211	139	94	233	294	82	377	821	1,470
January-February	419	306	177	483	498	133	631	1,530	1,430
2005:									
January	209 <sup>r</sup>	157	102	259	334	90	425	893	1,510
February	191	152	103	255	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	400	310	205	515	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM  
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2004 <sup>p</sup>	1,680	1,240	754	668	1,080	1,010	110	98	5	5	3,630	3,020
2004:												
February	133	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	285	238
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(2)	(2)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136	99	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
August	147	109	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	318	265
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	148	110	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	319	265
November	146	108	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	306	253
December	133	98	61	54	78	73	8	7	(2)	(2)	281	233
January-February	266	197	108	96	180	169	22	20	1	1	577	483
2005:												
January	151	110	63	55	92	86	9	8	(2)	(2)	314	259
February	149	109	69	61	83	78	8	7	1	1	310	255
January-February	300	219	132	116	175	164	17	15	1	1	624	515

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	124,000	149,000	90,900	109,000
Integrated aluminum companies	69,000	69,000	60,600	60,600
Independent mill fabricators	69,400	83,300	65,000	78,000
Foundries	6,800	8,160	5,990	7,190
Other consumers	422	507	422	507
Total	270,000	310,000	223,000	255,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN FEBRUARY 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	February			January-February <sup>2</sup>		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	13,700	56,800	55,400	15,000	110,000	110,000
Can stock clippings	2,370	24,200	24,700	1,950	49,500	49,700
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,940 <sup>r</sup>	20,300	19,900	9,350	47,000	46,200
Casting	1,150	8,050	8,030	1,170	14,900	15,000
Borings and turnings	4,750	18,900	17,800	5,890	37,000	35,500
Dross and skimmings	5,080	36,400	36,300	5,220	72,700	72,500
Total new scrap	36,000 <sup>r</sup>	165,000	162,000	38,600	331,000	329,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,500	12,000	12,400	6,100	24,800	25,300
Used extrusions	42	257	257	42	513	513
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	7,440	68,300	67,500	8,250	133,000	130,000
Other wrought products	5,630	16,900	16,900	5,630	34,200	34,200
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,600	10,200	10,100	2,650	21,600	21,500
Total old scrap	22,200	108,000	107,000	22,700	214,000	212,000
Sweated pig	71	743	731	83	1,510	1,510
Total all classes	58,300 <sup>r</sup>	273,000	270,000	61,400	546,000	542,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February <sup>3</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,590	2,350	1,450	4,490	4,110	2,890
380 and variations	7,420	19,700	20,500	6,590	39,900	40,100
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,530	3,970	4,020	2,480	7,980	8,040
No. 319 and variations	5,140	8,870	8,860	5,150	19,200	18,700
F-132 alloy and variations	1,180	2,200	2,190	1,190	4,590	4,650
Al-Zn alloys	226	142	135	232	292	283
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	6	6
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	761	761
Other <sup>4</sup>	5,200	5,540	5,830	4,910	11,700	12,100
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200	43,300	43,300
Total all alloys	35,500	64,800	65,100	35,300	132,000	131,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,680	XX	XX	19,200	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,830	XX	XX	5,930	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	619	XX	XX	1,340	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	51,700	XX	XX	105,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	10,500	1	--	10,500
Australia	4,690	6	--	4,690
Bahrain	--	1,120	--	1,120
Belgium	--	907	--	907
Brazil	16,300	2,780	126	19,200
Canada	135,000	41,000	24,900	200,000
China	3,460	6,750	123	10,300
France	71	730	20	820
Germany	462	7,940	--	8,410
Hungary	--	5	--	5
Italy	--	203	--	203
Japan	110	1,190	36	1,340
Korea, Republic of	--	330	--	330
Mexico	--	1,850	7,730	9,580
Netherlands	48	311	--	359
Norway	--	4	--	4
Russia	104,000	5,370	567	110,000
South Africa	9,960	3,400	--	13,400
Spain	--	135	--	135
Sweden	--	292	--	292
Switzerland	(2)	232	--	232
Tajikistan	15,200	--	--	15,200
United Arab Emirates	4,880	--	--	4,880
United Kingdom	99	322	195	615
Venezuela	26,000	974	1,410	28,300
Other	4,560	14,500	4,660	23,700
Total	334,000	90,300	39,800	465,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	35	161	12	208
Azerbaijan	--	(2)	--	(2)
Belgium	91	386	--	477
Brazil	39	307	393	739
Canada	11,500	41,800	11,900	65,200
China	11	2,170	27,100	29,200
Czech Republic	--	115	--	115
Dominican Republic	--	69	--	69
France	34	572	--	607
Germany	102	432	26	560
Hong Kong	7	262	501	770
India	19	40	642	701
Israel	35	136	--	171
Italy	--	268	--	268
Japan	43	460	2,300	2,800
Korea, Republic of	73	1,030	10,200	11,300
Malaysia	1	336	4	342
Mexico	14,400	13,900	3,460	31,800
Netherlands	2	40	16	58
Russia	27	--	--	27
Saudi Arabia	--	1,900	--	1,900
Singapore	1	204	39	244
Spain	1	74	136	211
Sweden	--	94	--	94
Taiwan	18	632	2,810	3,460
Thailand	27	473	1,120	1,620
United Kingdom	20	1,050	16	1,090
Venezuela	--	70	7	77
Other	14	2,650	1,550	4,220
Total	26,500	69,600	62,200	158,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.